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## **County Employment and Wages in Arizona – Second Quarter 2021**

Employment rose in Arizona's two largest counties from June 2020 to June 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2020.) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that Maricopa County had the larger over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 5.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in covered employment among the largest counties in Arizona, June 2021**

County	Percent change, June 2021
Maricopa.....	5.4
Pima .....	2.5

National employment increased 6.7 percent over the year, with 339 of the 343 largest U.S. counties reporting gains. Atlantic, NJ, had the largest over-the-year increase in employment with a gain of 36.8 percent. Calcasieu, LA, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease in employment with a loss of 0.9 percent.

Among Arizona's two large counties, employment was higher in Maricopa (2,031,400) in June 2021. Together, Maricopa and Pima Counties accounted for 83.7 percent of total employment within the state. Nationwide, the 343 largest counties made up 72.2 percent of total U.S. employment.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 13 counties in Arizona with employment below 75,000. Wage levels in 12 of the 13 smaller counties were below the national average of \$1,241 in the second quarter of 2021. (See [table 2](#).)

### **Large county wage changes**

Average weekly wages in Maricopa County increased 6.1 percent from the second quarter of 2020 to the second quarter of 2021, above the national average of 4.5 percent. Pima County had a 4.0-percent increase in average weekly wages. (See [chart 2](#).)

**Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in covered average weekly wages among the largest counties in Arizona, second quarter 2021**

County	Percent change, second quarter 2021
Maricopa.....	6.1
Pima .....	4.0

Among the 343 largest counties in the United States, 302 had over-the-year wage increases. San Francisco, CA, had the largest percentage wage increase (+29.7 percent). Atlantic, NJ, had the largest over-the-year percentage decrease (-7.4 percent).

### **Large county average weekly wages**

Average weekly wages in Maricopa County (\$1,209) and Pima County (\$1,028) were below the U.S. average of \$1,241 and ranked 104<sup>th</sup> and 234<sup>th</sup> nationwide, respectively, in the second quarter of 2021.

Among the largest U.S. counties, 90 reported average weekly wages above the U.S. average in the second quarter of 2021. Santa Clara, CA, had the highest average weekly wage at \$3,516. Average weekly wages were at or below the national average in the remaining 253 counties. At \$728 a week, Hidalgo, TX, had the lowest average weekly wage.

### **Average weekly wages in Arizona's smaller counties**

Among the 13 smaller counties in Arizona —those with employment below 75,000—Greenlee (\$1,377) had an average weekly wage above the national average of \$1,241. La Paz County (\$833) had the lowest average weekly wage in the state.

When all 15 counties in Arizona were considered, 3 had average weekly wages below \$900, 7 had wages from \$900 to \$999, and 5 had wages of \$1,000 or higher. (See [chart 3](#).)

### **Additional statistics and other information**

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

*Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. This publication is typically published in September of the following year of the reference period or shortly after the QCEW first quarter full data update. The *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* is available at [www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/publications/employment-and-wages-annual-averages/).

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**The County Employment and Wages release for third quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The County Employment and Wages full data update for third quarter 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.**

### **Technical Note**

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan

Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS web site at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew). However, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and the two largest counties in Arizona, second quarter 2021**

Area	Establishments, second quarter (thousands)	Employment			Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		June 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>	Second quarter 2021	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2020–21 <sup>(2)</sup>	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(4)</sup> .....	10,863.2	144,044.8	6.7	--	\$1,241	--	4.5	--
Arizona .....	180.2	2,857.8	5.3	--	1,154	20	5.9	6
Maricopa.....	117.0	2,031.4	5.4	200	1,209	104	6.1	43
Pima .....	19.9	360.8	2.5	324	1,028	234	4.0	139

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Ranking does not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(4) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 2. Covered establishments, employment, and wages in the United States and all counties in Arizona, second quarter 2021**

Area	Establishments	Employment June 2021	Average weekly wage (1)
United States (2)	10,863,217	144,044,799	\$1,241
Arizona	180,186	2,857,836	1,154
Apache	614	16,508	1,011
Cochise	2,341	33,166	994
Coconino	3,617	59,505	916
Gila	1,008	14,325	927
Graham	572	9,475	947
Greenlee	94	5,030	1,377
La Paz	367	5,717	833
Maricopa	117,024	2,031,358	1,209
Mohave	4,132	53,590	849
Navajo	1,720	26,602	901
Pima	19,875	360,802	1,028
Pinal	3,614	62,866	964
Santa Cruz	1,154	12,776	1,058
Yavapai	6,205	64,425	889
Yuma	3,437	60,840	934

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Table 3. Covered establishments, employment, and wages by state, second quarter 2021**

State	Establishments, second quarter (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		June 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2020–21	Second quarter 2021	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
United States <sup>(2)</sup> .....	10,863.2	144,044.8	6.7	\$1,241	--	4.5	--
Alabama .....	137.8	1,952.0	4.4	1,010	35	4.8	15
Alaska .....	23.7	315.5	6.7	1,181	17	-1.2	51
Arizona .....	180.2	2,857.8	5.3	1,154	20	5.9	6
Arkansas .....	96.1	1,205.3	4.4	974	45	5.2	12
California .....	1,662.9	16,992.1	7.0	1,579	3	7.5	5
Colorado .....	228.9	2,723.9	7.1	1,283	10	4.4	19
Connecticut .....	130.1	1,604.1	7.9	1,411	6	0.6	47
Delaware .....	35.1	440.1	5.1	1,165	19	1.7	41
District of Columbia .....	44.0	724.6	3.3	2,096	1	5.4	8
Florida .....	782.5	8,654.0	6.7	1,113	24	7.7	3
Georgia.....	337.0	4,453.5	6.5	1,139	22	5.9	6
Hawaii.....	48.7	590.5	12.7	1,117	23	0.7	46
Idaho .....	76.4	801.8	7.3	930	50	5.3	10
Illinois .....	394.6	5,743.5	6.5	1,260	11	3.5	25
Indiana.....	178.2	3,011.8	5.2	1,013	34	5.4	8
Iowa.....	106.1	1,528.0	4.8	999	38	2.1	38
Kansas .....	90.5	1,356.0	4.0	995	41	2.7	30
Kentucky.....	132.4	1,851.2	5.6	999	38	2.9	28
Louisiana .....	142.7	1,806.6	5.4	1,005	36	2.0	39
Maine.....	57.0	623.0	8.7	1,005	36	2.4	33
Maryland.....	175.6	2,599.7	6.8	1,319	9	1.0	44
Massachusetts .....	277.4	3,497.0	10.1	1,591	2	1.1	43
Michigan .....	270.2	4,175.6	8.4	1,143	21	2.5	32
Minnesota.....	192.8	2,814.5	6.4	1,240	13	3.3	26
Mississippi .....	75.7	1,107.1	4.1	843	51	3.8	22
Missouri .....	221.6	2,759.3	5.3	1,052	32	3.6	23
Montana .....	55.1	490.7	7.0	959	47	4.5	18
Nebraska .....	74.4	976.6	4.8	997	40	3.9	21
Nevada .....	93.9	1,353.9	14.0	1,106	25	5.3	10
New Hampshire.....	58.5	657.4	8.7	1,345	8	10.6	1
New Jersey.....	300.4	3,993.8	12.0	1,387	7	0.8	45
New Mexico .....	63.0	790.6	4.3	987	42	2.9	28
New York .....	667.9	8,885.4	9.2	1,540	5	1.3	42
North Carolina .....	311.1	4,511.3	7.2	1,092	27	5.1	14
North Dakota .....	32.6	407.4	4.3	1,067	29	0.6	47
Ohio.....	312.4	5,266.7	4.3	1,068	28	3.6	23
Oklahoma .....	114.6	1,568.7	3.1	963	46	2.4	33
Oregon .....	169.2	1,899.6	5.6	1,196	15	4.8	15
Pennsylvania .....	370.9	5,674.7	6.9	1,193	16	2.0	39
Rhode Island .....	42.1	472.2	10.0	1,168	18	-0.3	50
South Carolina.....	150.1	2,091.9	4.9	977	44	5.2	12
South Dakota.....	36.3	442.3	6.4	936	49	2.6	31
Tennessee .....	182.3	3,012.4	5.9	1,094	26	7.6	4
Texas .....	758.0	12,466.7	5.7	1,210	14	4.7	17
Utah.....	119.9	1,586.0	7.6	1,060	30	4.2	20
Vermont.....	27.8	292.4	7.5	1,053	31	-0.2	49
Virginia.....	293.6	3,854.3	6.1	1,257	12	3.2	27
Washington.....	263.6	3,376.7	5.7	1,547	4	8.3	2
West Virginia .....	52.7	663.8	4.8	955	48	2.2	37
Wisconsin .....	186.5	2,845.7	5.7	1,037	33	2.3	35
Wyoming .....	28.2	275.1	5.6	987	42	2.3	35
Puerto Rico.....	47.6	867.2	8.6	567	(3)	2.0	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Covered establishments, employment, and wages by state, second quarter 2021 - Continued**

State	Establishments, second quarter (thousands)	Employment		Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>			
		June 2021 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2020–21	Second quarter 2021	National ranking by level <sup>(3)</sup>	Percent change, second quarter 2020–21	National ranking by percent change <sup>(3)</sup>
Virgin Islands .....	3.5	35.7	0.0	923	(3)	-8.4	(3)

## Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

**Chart 3. Average weekly wages by county in Arizona, second quarter 2021**

Area	Average weekly wage <sup>(1)</sup>
Apache .....	\$1,011
Cochise .....	994
Coconino .....	916
Gila .....	927
Graham .....	947
Greenlee .....	1,377
La Paz .....	833
Maricopa .....	1,209
Mohave .....	849
Navajo .....	901
Pima .....	1,028
Pinal .....	964
Santa Cruz .....	1,058
Yavapai .....	889
Yuma .....	934

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.